

Dev (195) Department.

Ms. SERIES.

G.O. No. 5763

Dated 22.11.48

[Despatch Abstract.]

M.L.A. - Starred Qn. No.71 by Sri V. Ragaviah, M.L.A. - Iron and Steel -
No. of stock-holders and quantity of steel allotted and distributed -
Information regarding - Papers recorded -

STOCKISTS OF IRON AND STEEL IN THE CITY.

*192 Q--Sri V. RAGHAVAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state--

(a) how many stockists of iron and steel articles are appointed in the Madras City by the Industries department;

(b) what the total quantity of steel and iron covered by permits granted to these stockists by the Industries and Agricultural Departments is; and

(c) what the total quantity of iron and steel imported into this Province last year is?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:--"(a) The Industries department does not appoint stockists of iron and steel. The Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, registers them. There are 71 registered stockholders in the Madras City.

"(b) The total quantity of iron and steel covered by permits granted to these stockholders for consumers in the Madras City and mufassal for the period from 1st September 1947 to 30th June 1948 was 6,268 tons. Details prior to 1st September 1947 are not readily available. The Agricultural department do not operate on these stockholders.

"(c) The total quantity of iron and steel received from the Government of India for 1947 was 11,351 tons. No steel was imported from outside-in-outside India."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:- "It is a fact that, owing to the circumstance that most of the stockists are in Madras City, which is by no means a place of agriculture or similar occupation, most of those in distant places who receive permits sell them away here alone with the result that the allotment does not go to the legitimate consumer?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:--"This sort of vague allegation has been made more than once before, and more than once I have asked hon. Members to give me, at least one or two cases so that I may follow them up. Such vague allegations against people in general will do no good to anybody.

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:- "May I know when this dual control over the distribution of iron and steel will terminate and the Madras Government will be entirely in charge of it?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:--"May I ask the hon. Member to let me know that he means by dual control?"

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:--"Is it not a fact that certain applications for iron and steel have to go to Calcutta and that the distribution is ordered from there?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:--"Distribution of iron and steel is done under the orders of the Government of India. Certain quota is allotted to this Province for specific purposes. If iron and steel are wanted for other purposes, the applications have necessarily to go to Calcutta and they have to be sponsored by various departments. That is a matter concerning the Government of India and there is no use of putting the question to me."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:--"Are the Government aware that important towns like Vellore have no stockist for iron and steel and that the inhabitants in such places feel considerable difficulty in getting their

allotment?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:--"Stockholders are appointed by the Government of India and there are quite a large number of them here in Madras. Anybody in the mufassal who wants iron or steel gets a permit from the Director of Controlled Commodities. In places where there are no stockholders, there may be some difficulty in purchasing the quota allowed by their permit. But the recognition of stockholders is done by the Government of India and not by the Government of Madras."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:--"Is the Hon. Minister aware that permits are issued to bona fide purchasers to purchase their requirements from stockholders who are 500 to 1,000 miles away?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:--"Quite probably it happens like that some times, because the material of the nature that a particular man asks for may not be available at a nearer place. If a man wants a particular material, sometimes he will have to go even 500 miles."

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO:--"May I know how many tons of defective iron has come into the Province without the knowledge of the Government of Madras."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:--"The question presumes that something has come without the knowledge of the Madras Government. How can the Government answer a question about a thing concerning which they have no knowledge."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:--"At least as a check on the wholesale dealers, will the Government consider the desirability of making co-operative societies wholesalers for iron and steel?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:--"It is for the co-operative societies to take up the matter with the Government of India. If the Government of India are willing to recognize them as stockholders, the Madras Government will consider whether they can be sponsored at all."

To A.S.

Pl. see the printed proceedings of the Legislative Assembly on pp. 4-46 f. No further action is called for. The pp. may be recorded.

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